

**Serial No. 10/765,322**

**Art Unit: 1742**

between:

- I. Claims 1-31, drawn to a treating agent, classified in class 106, subclass 14.22.
- II. Claims 32, 33, drawn to method for forming protective coating, classified in class 148, subclass 243.

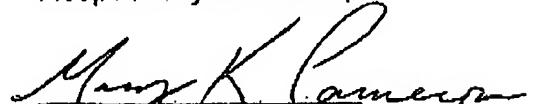
In reviewing the claims, the undersigned noted that claims 1-12 and 18-28 are drawn to a treating agent, claims 13-15 and 29-31 are drawn to a metallic material having a protective coating formed by treating agents according to claim 1 or 18 respectively, and claims 16, 17, 32 and 33 are drawn to a method for forming a protective coating by applying treating agents according to claim 1 or 18 respectively.

Applicants submit that the three claim types are connected by the common use of a treating agent and by the fact that all three claim types depend from a treating agent claim. Further, as claimed, the process and metallic material having a protective coating cannot be made by a chemical conversion coating process, as suggested by the Examiner, where the process and material claims require use of Applicant's claimed treating agents. Accordingly, Applicants traverse the election requirement and request its withdrawal.

Applicants hereby elect to prosecute claims directed to a treating agent (claims 1-12 and 18-28), with traverse.

Early consideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Any questions regarding this submission should be directed to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Mary K. Cameron  
(Reg. No. 34,789)  
Attorney for Applicants  
248-589-4672

Henkel Corporation  
Patent Law Department  
2200 Renaissance Boulevard, Suite 200